

INVEST AND TRADE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**1051. Ms M.M. QUIRK to the Premier:**

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Forrestfield, I welcome the students and teachers from Forrestfield Primary School; and, on behalf of the member for Southern River, I welcome the student councillors of Bletchley Park Primary School.

I refer to the announcement this morning of the establishment of Invest and Trade Western Australia.

- (1) How will Invest and Trade WA assist local businesses wanting to access international markets?
- (2) What will it mean for creating new WA jobs?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Girrawheen for the question.

- (1)–(2) This morning I addressed the *Business News Western Australia* politics and policy breakfast, with a fairly large crowd from the Western Australian business community there. I was able to inform the business audience that the budget is in surplus again and debt is going down, and we are the only state in Australia achieving that. I also informed the audience of the new measures we are taking, such as stamp duty relief, payroll tax cuts, maintenance spending and lower TAFE fees. We are also assisting Western Australian businesses in accessing trade opportunities overseas, and attracting and facilitating investment in Western Australia. We have created a new division within the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation known as Invest and Trade Western Australia. Invest and Trade WA will draw on and work with a range of government institutions already engaged in this area. It will use the government's network of overseas trade offices and our regional development commissions, as well as seek the assistance of agencies like Austrade and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Invest and Trade WA will present a single front door for those interested in investing in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Nationals WA does not seem to like it, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! The National Party has to remember that it is in the whole Parliament. You can have a little chat and a joke and you all laugh, but no-one else does.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Perhaps the National Party can ask more questions about marron!

Invest and Trade WA will present a single front door to those interested in investing in Western Australia, both physically and digitally, and ensure that investors are well managed through whichever processes they need to navigate. This is a new approach for the government of Western Australia.

In the past, as I said this morning, Western Australia has been the recipient of large amounts of investment, particularly by large companies. We are lucky that we are so well endowed with natural resources that large companies like Rio Tinto, BHP, Chevron and the like come to Western Australia and invest in large projects. I would like to see the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation out there looking for new investors or projects, seeking investment and having a greater can-do attitude towards allowing investment to happen in Western Australia. It has been operating in the background now for a period of time. It has fielded more than 70 requests so far. It will ramp-up early in the new year. It means that organisations or businesses that look for opportunities to obtain products from or invest in Western Australia can come through that front door, be sent in the right direction and receive some assistance.

Other states have done this. I think South Australia in particular has been successful at that, which, considering South Australia's economy, one can imagine that they have been very —

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Are members okay over there? Okay, that is good.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Moore! Do something constructive.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** No, I do not think there are any policies on the Nationals WA website.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I do not think they have any. There are no policies. What policies?

**The SPEAKER:** Members on my right! The Premier is on his feet.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** What policies does the National Party have? We should do a bit of a review and see if there are any there. I do not think there are.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The marron policy of the member for Warren–Blackwood!

We are providing that sort of assistance. This is a new approach for the government of Western Australia—to be far more proactive in seeking investment and seeking to help investors in Western Australia. I look forward to its success.